

ATTACHMENT 2



(Amended) A gravimetric blender comprising:

- a. a vertically elongated housing having a transparent panel for operator viewing of blender operation within said housing;
- b. a material storage hopper removably mounted on said housing, comprising:
 - i. means within the hopper and proximate the hopper bottom for selectively dispensing material within said hopper into said housing; and
 - ii. means connected to said hopper and remaining so upon removal of said hopper from said housing, for actuating said material dispensing means;
- c. a weigh bin connected to said housing below said hopper;
- d. means connected to the exterior of said housing for sensing weight of material in said bin; and
- e. a lower portion of said housing defining a mix chamber below said weigh bin.

6. (Amended) The blender of claim 3 wherein a plurality of said [vertically] extending surfaces are formed integrally of a single piece.

9. (Amended) A gravimetric blender comprising:

- a. a vertically elongated rectangular frame having a plurality of sides extending substantially the vertical height of said housing, one of said sides affording inspection and access to the housing throughout its height, said frame having a [cradle at the] top;

- b. a material storage hopper removably mounted on said frame [cradle] top and comprising means within said hopper and proximate the hopper bottom for dispensing material within said hopper;
 - c. a weigh bin [connected to] positioned within said frame below said hopper;
 - d. means mounted in a load cell box connected to said frame laterally adjacent to said weigh bin for sensing weight of material in said bin by cantileveringly supporting said weigh bin; and
 - e. a mix chamber below said weigh bin.
15. (Amended) The blender of claim [9] 10, said frame having four sides with diverging guide flaps projecting upwardly from the top of said sides forming said cradle with an open-top, wherein said hopper with said valve and actuating means affixed thereto is seated in said cradle so as to be manually removable from said housing.
17. (Amended) The blender of claim [9] 16 wherein said actuating means is pneumatically driven and includes a vertically elongated member for transmitting motion to said ^{AAA} valve.
18. (Amended) The blender of claim [9] 16 wherein said actuating means comprises a piston-cylinder combination connected to said hopper wall.
19. (Amended) The blender of claim [9] 18 further comprising means connected to said frame for selectively contacting and opening said bin to release material in said bin downwardly into said mix chamber.
36. (Amended) A gravimetric blender comprising:
- a. a housing;

- b. a weigh bin mounted on said housing, having an aperture at the bottom thereof and comprising;
 - i. a movable weigh pan defining a portion of the bin bottom;
 - ii. a sloped section forming a portion of said bin bottom and extending downwardly from a bin side;
 - iii. remaining sides of said bin having co-planar lower extremities;
 - iv. at least a central part of said pan when said aperture is open being below said sloped [portion] section;
 - c. means, connected to said housing, for sensing weight of material in said bin; a mix chamber below said bin and connected to said housing including mixing means therewithin;
 - d. means for selectively moving said pan between a position covering said aperture at which said pan defines a portion of said bin bottom and [an] a position at which said aperture is open for releasing material in said bin downwardly into said mix chamber.
39. (Amended) The blender of claim 36 wherein said central part of said weigh pan when said pan is [bin] in said open aperture [uncovering] position is parallel with said sloped section.
40. (Amended) The blender of claim 36 wherein said central part of said weigh bin when at [and] said aperture open [uncovering] position is under said sloped section.
41. (Amended) A gravimetric blender comprising:

- a. a vertically elongated frame having an open side and defining an enclosure having a weigh bin and a mix chamber therein;
- b. a material storage hopper mounted on said frame;
- c. said weigh bin connected to said frame below said hopper;
- d. means, connected to said frame, for sensing weight of material in said bin as received from said hopper;
- e. said mix chamber below said bin and receiving material therefrom including rotatable mixing means therewithin;
- f. a vertically elongated panel adapted for connection with said frame to close said enclosure at the open side and disconnection from said frame to open said enclosure, said panel being transparent;
- g. drive means supplying rotary motion for said mixing means [mixer]; and
- h. means transferring rotary motion from said drive means to said mixing means [mixer] and operable to disconnect said mixing means [mixer] from said drive means upon disconnection of said panel from said frame.

42. (Amended) The blender of claim 41 wherein said means transferring rotary motion from said drive means to said mixing means connects said mixing means [connecting said mixer] to said panel for axial movement of [said] a shaft portion of said rotary motion transferring means [responsively to said panel disconnecting from said frame provides movement of said mixer] unitarily with said panel upon panel disconnection from said frame.

43. (Amended) The blender of claim 42 further comprising means for connecting said panel with said frame including [wherein said connection means comprises] a metal strap spanning across said open side along an exterior surface of said panel at a position in registry with said mix chamber.
46. (Amended) The blender of claim 44 wherein said mixing means [mixer] axis of rotary motion is perpendicular to said panel.
47. (Amended) The blender of claim 44 further comprising drive means for supplying rotary motion to said mixing means [mixer] through an arc.

ATTACHMENT 3

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

This application is based on provisional United States applications 60/032,831, filed 13 December 1996 and 60/045,343, filed 4 May 1997, the benefit of the priority of both of which is claimed under 35 USC 119, and is a continuation-in-part of United States design patent application 29/071,503 filed 30 May 1997 which issued 9 May 2000 as U.S. D424,587, the priority of which is claimed under 35 USC 120.